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ON EDGE

Tensions run high at airports across the globe as officials scramble to figure out how a man on a watch list brought explosives aboard a U.S. jet 9



AFP/GETTY IMAGES



EYE OPENERS

Donkeys Resentful About Being Typecast

A living nativity scene in a church near Vail, Colo., almost had to go without two crucial players when its donkeys escaped. The two animals were being held in a fenced-in pen for the Wednesday night event, but they pushed their way out. A church member who stopped by the church Wednesday noticed the donkeys were gone. He and a sheriff's deputy followed footprints in the snow and caught up with them. (AP)

Aww, How Lazy

Two longtime friends from New York state have been exchanging the same birthday card for 32 years. Shirley Dahlgren and Bonnie Wiles have charted their lives through messages added to the 1977 greeting card over the years. They ran out of space to write on the card itself years ago and had to add extra pages. The card was originally sent by Dahlgren. (AP)

Man's Friends Are Funnier Than Yours



A Chicago man could be unwrapping the hundreds of gifts in his apartment for weeks. Trouble is, they aren't really presents. They're his own belongings, wrapped by friends as a prank while he was out of town. Louie Saunders' packages contain everything from couch cushions to beer. A friend masterminded the scheme after Saunders gave him a spare key. It took 16 people, 35 rolls of paper and eight hours to finish the job. (AP)

The Big Picture



**HORSES, HUNTERS AND HOUNDS** set out Saturday in Lacock, England, for the traditional Boxing Day fox hunt — though it's more of a gallop through the woods, as hunting foxes with dogs has been illegal for four years. Thousands attended similar events, with many protesting the anti-hunt laws. (EXPRESS)

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## Retailers Cheered By Sales Jump

New York

Holiday shoppers spent a little more this season, according to data released Monday, giving merchants some reason for cheer.

The spending bounce means retailers managed to avoid a repeat of last year's disaster even

15

The percent increase in online retail sales this holiday shopping season.

amid tight credit and double-digit unemployment. Profits should be healthier, too, because stores had a year to plan their inventories to match lower consumer demand and never needed to resort to fire-sale clearances.

Retail sales rose 3.6 percent from Nov. 1 through Dec. 24, compared with a 3.2 percent drop in the year-ago period, according to figures from MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse, which tracks all forms of payment, including cash.

Last year, the economy was in "critical condition," said Michael McNamara, vice president at MasterCard Advisors' SpendingPulse. "This year, it's in stable condition."

ANNE D'INNOCENZIO (AP)

## White House on the Defensive

Security policies face sharp criticism after foiled airline attack

Washington

The Obama administration found itself on Sunday not basking in a major domestic political victory, as it had good reason to expect just 60 hours earlier, but instead under stern criticism accompanied by stiff questions about its preparedness against airplane terrorists.

On Fox News Sunday, Michigan's Peter Hoekstra, the Republican's ranking member on the House Intelligence Committee, declared that the Obama administration ought to be held accountable for the near catastrophe aboard Northwest Airlines Flight 253. Hoekstra asserted that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's presence on the flight was part of a troubling pattern of administration neglect on preparedness questions.

"Connecting the dots here is not necessary on this particular case; it's connecting the dots we've seen over the last years," Hoekstra said.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Obama was in Hawaii when he learned about the foiled terrorist attack.

**"The threat to the United States is real. I think [the Obama administration] has downplayed it."**

— REP. PETER HOEKSTRA, R-MICH., WHO SAYS PRESIDENT OBAMA SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR LAST WEEK'S APPARENT FAILURE IN AIRLINE SECURITY.

"What do we have here? This is an international movement of radicalization, all right? The Obama Administration came in and said, 'We're not going to use the word terrorist anymore. We're going to call it man-made disasters.'"

"The threat to the United States is real," Hoekstra said. "I think this administration has downplayed it."

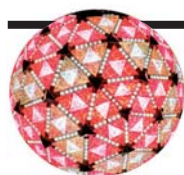
It was just Christmas Eve

when the Obama administration appeared certain to have put a lock on the primary nature of political discourse for the next several weeks by winning a historic vote on health care legislation in the Senate. In political time, it already feels like long ago.

From the outset of his 2008 presidential campaign, Obama has tried rebuffing Republicans who've raised doubts about his foreign policy experience and acumen. Flight 253 seems to have emboldened the skeptics, who are already seizing the opportunity to charge that he is afflicted by misplaced priorities. The disclosure that the suspect had earlier been listed in a broad terrorism database begged the question, critics said, about how he could ever have been permitted to board a plane.

Hoekstra's charges were just part of a spree of Republican criticism on the Sunday talk shows that included South Carolina senator Jim DeMint's claim that the Obama administration was seeking to "unionize" airport security at a cost to Americans' security.

MICHAEL LEAHY (THE WASHINGTON POST)



SYMBOLISM

**The New Year's Eve** crystal ball that drops in New York's Times Square is getting a makeover to ring in 2010. Organizers unveiled a new design Sunday for nearly 300 Waterford crystal triangles to be installed on the giant ball. The crystals feature an interlocking ribbon pattern to illustrate the theme "Let There Be Courage." One of the event's producers says the design evokes the yellow ribbons displayed for soldiers or the red ribbons for AIDS. (AP)

# Allergies?

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# Public Option Backers May Yield

House Dems signal support for Senate's health compromise

Washington

Two House Democrats who favor a government insurance plan, a central element of health care legislation passed in their chamber, acknowledged Sunday it might have to be sacrificed as negotiators work out a final agreement with the Senate.

Rep. James Clyburn of South Carolina, the No. 3 Democrat in the House and one who had appealed to President Obama not to yield on the public plan, set out conditions for yielding himself.

Asked during rounds on the Sunday news shows whether he could vote for a final bill that does not embrace a public plan, Clyburn



Rep. James Clyburn, D-S.C., had urged President Obama to back public insurance.

said: "Yes, sir, I can."

Clyburn added: "We want a public option to do basically three things: Create more choice for insurers, create more competition for insurance companies, and to

contain costs. So if we can come up with a process by which these three things can be done, then I'm all for it."

While insisting "it's not dead," Rep. Chris Van Hollen of Maryland

said he recognizes realities in the Senate, where Democrats had to scrape up every vote from their side even to pass a bill without a government plan to compete in the private insurance marketplace.

"Before the House was to give up the public option, we would want to be persuaded that there are other mechanisms in whatever bill comes out that will keep down premiums," Van Hollen said.

Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., underscored the divisions Democrats will need to bridge when negotiators from the House and Senate meet to reconcile the two bills. He said there will need to be more give on the House side than the Senate.

"If we are going to have a final [health care] law, it will look a lot more like the Senate version than the House version," Menendez said.

CALVIN WOODWARD (AP)

# Famed Attorney For Malcolm X Dies at Age 89

New York

Percy Sutton, the pioneering civil rights attorney who represented Malcolm X before launching successful careers as a political power broker and media mogul, has died. He was 89.



Sutton

The son of a slave, Percy Sutton became a fixture on 125th

Street in Harlem after moving to New York City following his service with the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II. His Harlem law office represented Malcolm X and the slain activist's family for decades. Sutton also served as political mentor for the Rev. Jesse Jackson's two presidential races. (AP)

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A protester holds an image of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi in Tehran, left. People assist a riot police officer after he was allegedly beaten by protesters, right.

# Fierce Battles Kill Five in Tehran

Mousavi’s nephew dies in crackdown on opposition protesters

Tehran, Iran

Security forces opened fire at crowds demonstrating against the government in the capital on Sunday, killing at least five people, including the nephew of opposition political leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, witnesses and Web sites linked to the opposition said.

“Ali Mousavi, 32, was shot in the heart at the Enghelab square. He became a martyr,” the Rah-e Sabz Web site reported.

In the heaviest clashes in

months, fierce battles erupted as tens of thousands of demonstrators tried to gather on a main Tehran avenue, with people setting up roadblocks and throwing stones at members of special forces under the command of the Revolutionary Guard Corps. They in turn threw dozens of teargas and stun grenades, but failed in pushing back crowds, who shouted slogans against the government, witnesses reported.

Fights were also reported in the cities of Isfahan and Najafabad.

The protests coincided with Ashoura, one of the most intense religious holidays for Shiite Muslims. The slogans were mainly aimed at the top leaders of the Islamic republic,

**“I saw a riot cop opening fire, using a handgun. A girl was hit in the shoulders, three other men in their stomach and legs.”**

— A WITNESS WHO REPORTED SEEING AT LEAST FOUR PEOPLE SHOT IN TEHRAN’S CENTRAL VALI-E ASR SQUARE ON SUNDAY.

lic, a further sign that the opposition movement against President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad’s disputed June election victory is turning against Iran’s leadership.

At the Yadegar overpass, protesters

shouted slogans such as “Death to the dictator” and “long live Mousavi.” They fought with security forces until a car filled with members of the paramilitary Basij brigade drove through the makeshift barriers of stones and sandbags that the protesters had erected.

About a dozen members of the Revolutionary Guards fired paintball bullets, teargas and stun grenades. When reinforcements arrived, they managed to push back the hundreds of protesters gathered at the crossing.

“This is a month of blood. The dictator will fall,” people shouted, referring to the mourning month of Muharram. **THOMAS ERDBRINK (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

In Brief

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Suicide Blast Kills Five At Shiite Muslim Event

A suicide bomber targeted a gathering of Shiite Muslims in the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir on Sunday, killing five. The attacker detonated his explosives at a checkpoint outside a commemoration of Ashoura, the mourning period in which Shiite Muslims remember the seventh-century death of the Prophet Muhammad’s grandson, Imam Hussein. (AP)

BAGHDAD, IRAQ

Bombs Kill Seven Shiites

A bomb killed five Shiite pilgrims in north-east Iraq on Sunday and blasts in Baghdad killed two more pilgrims as millions of people marched to commemorate Ashoura. Insurgent attacks have killed dozens of pilgrims and hurt more than 150 during the Ashoura observance. (AP)

SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Activist: U.S. Missionary In North Korean Custody

An American missionary is believed to be in North Korean custody after he illegally entered the communist nation on Christmas day in an attempt to call attention to the country’s human rights conditions, an activist said Sunday. Robert Park, 28, slipped into the North from China. (AP)

APPEARANCES



**Pope Benedict XVI** met a crowd of well-wishers at a soup kitchen in Rome on Sunday, just days after he was knocked down by a woman at a Christmas Eve Mass. The Vatican said Susanna Maiolo, 25 — who jumped a barricade before tackling the pope on Thursday — was mentally unstable. The pontiff was not injured. (AP)

# At Least 22 Missing in Philippines After Second Ferry Disaster

Manila, Philippines

A passenger ferry sank in the northern Philippines in a second sea disaster in three days. Six bodies, including three children, were recovered and at least 22 people were missing Sunday.

Search-and-rescue teams retrieved at least 60 passengers and



A girl is comforted on Sunday after she was rescued from a ferry that capsized.

crew of the MV Baleno-9 and were scouring the seas for others still missing, a coast guard report said.

The latest ship disaster came after a Christmas Eve collision between a ferry and a fishing boat in which 24 were missing and feared dead and three bodies had been found by Sunday.

Admiral Wilfredo Tamayo quoted

ed survivors from Sunday’s accident as saying the ship took in water from the bow, causing it to tilt before submerging off the coast of Batangas province on Saturday.

There were conflicting accounts of the number of those missing. The Philippine National Red Cross said 32 people were missing, while the coast guard said 22 were missing. (AP)



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World

# Shock, Regret in Nigeria

Friends say man who tried to blow up U.S. jet didn't seem radical

Lagos, Nigeria

As a member of an upper-crust Nigerian family, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab received the best schooling, from the elite British International School in West Africa to the vaunted University College London.

But the education he wanted was of a different sort: Nigerian officials say his interest in extremist Islam prompted his father to warn U.S. authorities. As Abdulmutallab was being escorted in handcuffs off the Detroit-bound airliner he attempted to blow up on Christmas Day, he told U.S. offi-

cials that he had sought an extremist education at an Islamist hotbed in Yemen.

A portrait emerged Sunday of a serious young man who led a privileged life as the son of a prominent banker, but became estranged from his family as an adult. Devoutly religious, he gave few clues as a boy

radical, friends and family said.

"In all the time I taught him, we never had cross words," said Michael Rimmer, a Briton who taught history at the British International School in Lome, Togo.

"At one stage, his nickname was 'The Pope,'" Rimmer said from London in a telephone interview.

"In one way it's totally unsuitable because he's Muslim, but he did have this saintly aura."

But Abdulmutallab also showed signs of inflexibility, Rimmer said. In a discussion in 2001, Abdulmutallab was the only one to defend the actions of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Rimmer said, adding that he had thought the boy was just playing devil's advocate.

Through an official, Abdulmutallab's father "expressed deep shock and regret over his son's actions."

His family home sits in the city of Funtua, in the heart of Nigeria's Islamic culture. Religion figured into the family's life: His father, Alhaji Umar Mutallab, who had a successful career in commercial banking, also joined the board of an Islamic bank. **JON GAMBRELL (AP)**



Abdulmutallab

Activists Mark Anniversary of Israel-Gaza War



**EGYPTIAN AND FOREIGN ACTIVISTS** hold a candle-lit vigil in Cairo on Sunday to mark the first anniversary of the start of Israel's offensive on the Gaza Strip. Israel said its three-week campaign of air strikes and ground incursions was meant to stop years of rocket attacks from Gaza. The war left about 1,400 Palestinians dead. Thirteen Israelis were also killed.

# Anxiety Takes Flight

The White House vows a sweeping security review after foiled terrorist plot

## Washington

Investigators piecing together a brazen attempt to bring down a trans-Atlantic airliner said Sunday the suspect tucked a small bag holding his deadly concoction on his body, using an explosive that would have been easily detected with the right airport equipment.

His success in smuggling and partially igniting the material on Friday's flight to Detroit prompted the Obama administration to promise a sweeping review of aviation security.

Adding to the airborne jitters, a second Nigerian man was detained Sunday from the same Northwest flight to Detroit after he locked himself in the plane's bathroom. Officials reported that he was belligerent but genuinely sick, and that, in an abundance of caution, the plane was taken to a remote location for screening before passengers were let off.

Stiffer boarding measures met passengers at gates as authorities warned travelers to expect extra delays returning home from holidays. White House spokesman Robert Gibbs announced a review of air safety on two broad fronts, saying the government will investigate its systems for placing suspicious travelers on watch lists and for detecting explosives before passengers board flights.

Both lines of defense were breached in an improbable series of events Christmas Day that spanned three continents and culminat-



Airport officials use a bomb-sniffing dog to check baggage at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, the site of the Christmas Day scare.

ed in a struggle and fire aboard a Northwest jet shortly before its safe landing in Detroit. Law enforcement officials believed Nigerian Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, tried to ignite a two-part concoction of PETN and possibly a glycol-based liquid explosive, setting off popping, smoke and some fire but no deadly detonation.

He is charged with attempting to destroy an aircraft and placing a

destructive device in a plane.

Law enforcement officials say Abdulmutallab hid a condom or condom-like pouch below his torso containing PETN, the primary ingredient in detonating cords used for industrial explosions. Airport "puffer" machines that blow air on a passenger to collect and analyze residues would probably have detected the powder, as would bomb-sniffing dogs or a hands-on

search using a swab, they said.

Abdulmutallab had been placed on a watch list with more than 500,000 names in November, but not one that denied him passage by air into the U.S. Officials said he came to the attention of U.S. intelligence last month when his father, a prominent Nigerian banker, reported to the American Embassy in Nigeria about his son's increasingly extremist views.

## Safety Precautions

The U.S. has instituted three new rules for airline travel that will remain in effect until Dec. 30.

**1** U.S.-bound passengers aboard international flights must undergo a "thorough pat-down" at boarding gates, focused on the upper legs and torso. All carry-on baggage must be inspected.

**2** Passengers must remain seated for the final hour before landing. During that time, they may not have access to their carry-on baggage or hold personal items on their laps.

**3** While over U.S. airspace, flight crews may not make any announcements to passengers concerning the flight path or the airplane's position over cities or landmarks.

Despite that red flag, Abdulmutallab was not elevated to more exclusive — and perhaps manageable — lists of some 18,000 people who are designated for additional security searches or barred from flying altogether. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said that would have required "specific, credible, derogatory information" that authorities didn't have.

Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, said: "It's amazing to me that an individual like this who was sending out so many signals could end up getting on a plane going to the U.S." (AP)

**"I THINK THE IMPORTANT THING TO RECOGNIZE HERE IS THAT ONCE THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED, EVERYTHING HAPPENED THAT SHOULD HAVE."**

**Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano**, who made the rounds on the Sunday talk shows, assuring the traveling public that flying "is very, very safe." Even still, critics noted airport security officials and intelligence played no role in stopping Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab's bomb plot during the Christmas Day scare in Detroit.



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**Time to Deck the Malls**

Five tips for getting the most out of your holiday gift cards

**Smart Shopping**

Have the holidays left you with a pile of gift cards to spend? Better use them wisely.

That's become a little easier, because many retailers have eliminated expiration dates and fees that sap the cards' value over time.

But it's still easy to waste those nifty pieces of plastic. You might forget about them by sticking them in a drawer, or you might not spend the full amount. But in this tough economy, every penny counts. Here's how experts advise wringing out the full value of the cards.

**Keep It Safe**

Expert say that as soon as you get a gift card, put it in a safe place. That means stashing it in an envelope reserved just for gift cards. Some say to just put them in your wallet along with the credit cards.

**Maximize the Value**

Buy discounted merchandise when redeeming a gift card. Shoppers wanting to take advantage of post-



The holidays have probably left you with a stash of gift cards that need to be spent.

Christmas discounts should do so between now and Jan. 2.

That's because stores won't be swimming in holiday leftovers through February this year, because they came into the holidays with lean inventories.

**Use It All Up**

It's better to spend beyond the value of the gift card because that will ensure that you have used up all of its value. Many shoppers don't redeem gift cards to their full value — but \$3 on a gift card is \$3 that's not coming out of your own pocket.

**Buy Necessities**

Want to buy that winter coat but couldn't afford it? Use the gift card toward the big purchase. Gift cards may be free money, but experts say you shouldn't just buy anything, particularly in the difficult economy.

**Swap With Friends**

Don't like that particular store? Then get together with friends and swap cards. You can even do it online. Cardhub.com, a leading credit card comparison Web site, just launched a gift card application for Facebook. ANNE D'INNOCENZIO (AP)

DISCUSSIONS

**529 Plans**

Your child is in high school. Is it too late to start a 529 college savings plan? As with retirement funds, there are 529 options for investors of every stripe. That means that even if your child is just a few years away from college, there could still be reason to open an account. If you're thinking about a 529, here's what to consider.

**Tax and Other Benefits.**

Many states offer financial incentives for 529 plan contributions. So you can still reap benefits, even if the money

won't be in an account for long. Given the short time horizon, consider fund options within the 529 plan that protect your contributions. These may be called "principal protection," "stable value" or "guaranteed option" funds. The returns may not be as high, but they'll still likely beat current CD rates.

**Risk of Losses.**

Most states offer fund options designed to limit risk based on a child's age. These funds spread assets over a mix of stocks, bonds and short-term investments or money market accounts. As the child grows older, a larger share of the funds are automatically shifted out of stock and into more stable investments. As with any

mutual fund, there are inherent risks with 529 plans. So even with age-based plans, there's no guarantee you'll have a set dollar amount by the time your child is ready for college. Be sure you know the specific mix of the plan you're considering.

**Administrative Fees.**

If your child is already in high school, minimizing administrative fees should be a priority. It's one reason to avoid adviser-sold plans, which usually charge commissions of 5 percent to 6 percent of the contribution. If you're comfortable picking a plan on your own, you can get a direct-sold plan from the state plan's Web site or from the investment firm that handles it. CANDICE CHOI (AP)

# Four Years Later, Kaine Reflects

Va. governor has mixed emotions as term nears its end

**Richmond, Va.**

What Tim Kaine wanted to achieve as Virginia's 70th governor finished second to a sometimes vexing, sometimes triumphant and sometimes heartbreaking agenda the world forced upon him.

In the heady weeks before his January 2006 inauguration, Kaine readied his case for early learning programs for every prekindergarten child in Virginia. He envisioned broad reforms to the state's mental health care system.

He explored ways to pump hundreds of millions of new dollars into the state's moribund highway construction efforts.

That was before a student gunman killed 32 classmates and professors on a snowy April day at Virginia Tech in 2007, plunging the state deeply into grief and Kaine into the role of comforter-in-chief.



Va. Governor Tim Kaine ended smoking in restaurants and bars across the state.

That was before the worst economic collapse since the Great Depression melted away billions in projected state revenue, forcing layoffs and service cuts that now consume Kaine's final weeks in office.

And it was before he almost became Barack Obama's vice president in a campaign that made Obama the first black pres-

**"I tell you what made me angry. ... The Republican members of the House."**

— VA. GOV. TIM KAINE, SPEAKING ABOUT WHAT FRUSTRATED HIM MOST DURING HIS TENURE AS VIRGINIA'S 70TH GOVERNOR.

ident and the first Democrat to carry once-Confederate Virginia since 1964.

In the spoils, Obama persuaded a reluctant Kaine to moonlight as Democratic National Committee chairman while serving his final year as governor.

Those developments define Kaine's term, as do two failed initiatives to persuade legislative Republicans to enact new transportation revenues and his compromise with those same Republicans that effectively ended smoking in restaurants in a state dependent on tobacco from its colonial founding 400 years ago.

"I tell you what made me angry. It's not the people who were just voting against it out of the principle that you should never raise taxes. It's the Republican members of the House who told me, 'You know, you're right, we need to do it but politically I can't buck my caucus [and] vote the way I think I should,'" Kaine said a wide-ranging conversation with The Associated Press last week. (AP)

## Candle Sparks Fire, Displacing 24 Md. Families

**Oxon Hill, Md.**

An unattended candle sparked a fire that burned down a 3-story apartment building in Oxon Hill and displaced 24 families, fire officials say.

The fire Saturday evening went to three alarms and took firefighters nearly two hours to bring under control. Prince George's County fire officials say no one was injured in the blaze. Damage has been estimated at \$1.5 million. (AP)

### The Lotteries

**Sunday, Dec. 27**

#### District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers ..... 1-2-8  
Mid-day DC 4 ..... 6-4-6-7  
D.C. Five (Sun.) ..... 6-9-9-3-3

#### Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3 ..... 0-1-4  
Mid-day Pick 4 ..... 5-1-2-0

#### Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3 ..... 8-9-8  
Mid-day Pick 4 ..... 3-9-8-2  
Mid-day Cash 5 ..... 4-12-17-18-23

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

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Sports

Sunday Recap

WEEK 16

Top Dogs



Roddy White, WR, Falcons

In a blowout win over the hapless Bills, White turned in a superb performance, catching 8 balls for 139 yards and two touchdowns for the Falcons. His big day notched his third consecutive 1,000-yard receiving season.



Tom Brady, QB, Patriots

In a performance worthy of his past dominance, Brady threw for 267 yards four touchdown passes — three to Randy Moss — in New England's 35-7 rout of the Jaguars. The win cinched a playoff spot for the Patriots.

Westbrook Makes Return



MICHAEL PEREZ/AP

The Eagles' Brian Westbrook reacts after being introduced before Sunday's game against the Broncos. Concussions had sidelined him for five weeks this season.

Scoreboard

Falcons 31, Bills 3
Browns 23, Raiders 9
Packers 48, Seahawks 10
Texans 27, Dolphins 20
Patriots 35, Jaguars 7
Bucs 20, Saints 17 (OT)
Panthers 41, Giants 9
Bengals 17, Chiefs 10
Steelers 23, Ravens 20
Cardinals 31, Rams 10
49ers 20, Lions 6
Jets 29, Colts 15

For results of games that ended after deadline, visit [washingtonpost.com](http://washingtonpost.com).

The Numbers

61

The length, in yards, of a Sebastian Janikowski field goal that sailed through the uprights in the Oakland Raiders' loss to the Browns. The kick was the fourth-longest in NFL history.

1,002

The number of career receptions made by Bills receiver Terrell Owens. The verbose wideout had four catches in Sunday's game against the Falcons to become the sixth player to pass the 1,000 milestone.

50K

The number of yards that only four quarterbacks have thrown for in one season. The Colts' Peyton Manning became the fourth on Sunday before being taken out of Indy's loss the Jets — its first this season.

WashingtonPost.com

The Washington Redskins' game against the Dallas Cowboys ended after Express' deadline on Sunday night. For a complete recap of the action and reaction from inside the locker room, plus analysis from columnists Thomas Boswell and Mike Wise see [washingtonpost.com/sports](http://washingtonpost.com/sports)



The Ravens' Dannell Ellerbe pulls on Steelers QB Ben Roethlisberger's jersey in the fourth quarter of Sunday's 23-20 game.

Ravens Fall to Steelers



Jeff Reed's 38-yard field goal put Pittsburgh ahead with 5:25 remaining and the Steelers finally managed to hold a fourth-quarter lead, beating division rival Baltimore 23-20 on Sunday to remain in playoff contention and further jumble the AFC postseason race.

The Steelers (8-7), their season seemingly ended by a late-season five-game losing streak, won their second in a row and will go into the final weekend of the season with a chance to sneak into the

playoffs if they win at Miami and get some help.

Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes to Todd Heap, but the Ravens (8-7) — who could have clinched a wild-card spot with a victory and losses by two other contenders — face a win-or-else game at Oakland next Sunday although they retain the head-to-head tiebreaker against the Steelers.

Pittsburgh has lost six leads in the final quarter during a season marked by victories over contenders San Diego, Baltimore, Minnesota, Green Bay and Denver and losses to the Chiefs, Raiders and Browns, but held on to win as Reed kicked

three field goals and Rashard Mendenhall ran for a touchdown.

Baltimore had a chance late, but rookie defensive end Ziggy Hood recovered Flacco's fumble on a fourth-and-10 play from the Steelers 39 with 2:27 to play. After that, an apparent interception thrown by Ben Roethlisberger was wiped out by an illegal contact penalty on cornerback Frank Walker and Pittsburgh ran out the clock.

Ray Rice ran for 141 yards to end Pittsburgh's 33-game streak of not allowing a 100-yard rusher, but Baltimore still lost its fifth game by a margin of six points or less. (AP)

Saints Drop Second in a Row With OT Loss to Bucs

Pro Football

Carnell Williams had 129 yards rushing and Connor Barth kicked a 47-yard field goal in overtime, lifting the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a stunning 20-17 victory over the New Orleans Saints on Sunday. New Orleans was heavily

favored and could have wrapped up home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs with a win, but instead dropped a second straight game at home after opening the season 13-0.

Williams had a 23-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter and Michael Spurlock's 77-yard

punt return tied it, completing a comeback from 17 points down in the first half.

The Saints had a chance to win in the final seconds of regulation, but Garrett Hartley missed a 37-yard field goal. Tampa Bay (3-12) then won the coin toss to open overtime and scored soon after. (AP)

# Meyer Rethinks His Resignation

Florida coach opts to take indefinite leave of absence

## College Football

Florida coach Urban Meyer is taking an indefinite leave of absence instead of resigning and expects to be on the sideline leading the Gators when next season opens.

"I do in my gut believe that will happen," Meyer said Sunday at a Sugar Bowl news conference.

Offensive coordinator Steve Addazio will run the team during Meyer's absence, but Meyer will be the coach against No. 4 Cincinnati on New Year's Day. "It's full speed ahead," he said.

Less than 24 hours after resigning because of health concerns, Meyer changed his mind. He said he was offered and encouraged to take a leave of absence earlier in the week by the university president. Sunday, after conferring with athletic director Jeremy Foley and his family, he "accepted the offer to improve my health."

The 45-year-old Meyer said being with his players at a "spirited practice" Sunday morning persuaded him not to resign.

"To not try would not be the right thing to do," he said.

On Saturday night, Meyer



Florida's Urban Meyer discusses his decision to take a leave of absence on Sunday.

shocked college football when he said he was stepping down after five seasons as Gators coach.

After the Southeastern Conference championship game three weeks ago, Meyer spent several hours in a Gainesville, Fla., hospital because of chest pains.

Meyer said Sunday he had experienced similar problems at times this season but had not had a heart attack. However, he would

not elaborate on his physical condition. When asked if doctors advised him to stop coaching, Meyer again declined to answer.

Foley said when he went to sleep Saturday night he did not think there was any chance Meyer would change his mind.

"It was a long night for everybody in Gator nation," Foley said. "The intent here is to make sure Urban goes and deals with the

## Health Concerns

Last month, Sports Illustrated chronicled Florida coach Urban Meyer's coaching career and reported that he suffered from persistent headaches caused by a cyst that becomes inflamed by stress, rage and excitement. Meyer told the magazine that since the diagnosis in the early 2000s he has tried to stay composed during games. And Saturday night, The New York Times said Meyer's initial decision to resign was prompted by the hospital trip after the SEC game. "There was no heart damage," Meyer was quoted as saying. "But I didn't want there to be a bad day where there were three kids sitting around wondering what to do next. It was the pattern of what I was doing and how I was doing it. It was self-destructive." (AP)

issues we discussed last night."

Gators quarterback Tim Tebow said he and several of his teammates cried when they found out that Meyer was stepping down on Saturday and were elated when he told them he changed his mind.

"We want him to do what's best for him," Tebow said. "We want him to get himself right, and when he's right then come back to coaching, then get back into ball."

MARK LONG (AP)

## Bosh, Raptors Add to the Skidding Pistons' Woes

### Pro Basketball

A raft of reinforcements couldn't help the Detroit Pistons end a lengthy losing streak.

Chris Bosh had 25 points and 16 rebounds, Jarrett Jack scored 17 points and the Toronto Raptors extended their winning streak to a season-high four games, beating the Pistons 102-95 on Sunday.

Even with Richard Hamilton, Tayshaun Prince and Ben Gordon all back in the lineup, the Pistons still lost their seventh straight.



Toronto's Chris Bosh dunks for two of his 25 points Sunday against Detroit.

Detroit has not topped 100 points in any of those defeats.

"We had our chances tonight," Gordon said. "With all the injuries and guys coming back, I still thought we had a chance to win. We just didn't convert."

Hamilton and Gordon each scored 15 and Jonas Jerebko and Rodney Stuckey both had 14 for the Pistons. Andrea Bargnani scored 16 and Hedo Turkoglu added 14 for the Raptors, who improved to 12-0 when holding opponents below 100 points. (AP)

## Hearsay

**"We are one of the worst teams in the East until we can prove ourselves."**



— GILBERT ARENAS, ON THE STATE OF THE WIZARDS AFTER AN UGLY LOSS TO THE TIBERWOLVES SATURDAY NIGHT.



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Sports

Terrapins Roll at Home

Vasquez scores 26 as Maryland tops Fla. Atlantic, 72-59

Terps Hoops

Greivis Vasquez scored 26 points, Landon Milbourne had 19, and Maryland improved to 6-0 at home with a 72-59 victory over Florida Atlantic on Sunday.

It was the third-straight game in which Vasquez reached the 20-point mark. The senior guard went 12-for-20 from the field, had eight rebounds and five assists to help Maryland (8-3) to its fourth win in five games.

The Terrapins played without second-leading scorer Sean Mosley, who has a sprained left ankle. The sophomore forward participated in warmups and dressed for the game but did not see action for the first time in his career.

Ray Taylor, a 5-foot-6 freshman, scored 16 points and Greg Gantt added 14 for Florida Atlantic



Maryland's Landon Milbourne scores two of his 19 points in Sunday's victory.

(5-7). Brett Royster had 14 rebounds to help FAU finish with a 49-45 advantage on the boards.

It was the Owls' third-straight game against high caliber compe-

tition. Florida Atlantic lost 87-69 to Miami on Dec. 19 and 77-60 at Georgia on Wednesday. Florida Atlantic, of the Sun Belt Conference, is led by former George Washington and St. John's coach Mike Jarvis.

After the Owls used a 10-2 spree to cut an 18-point deficit to 52-42, baskets by Milbourne, Vasquez and freshman center Jordan Williams put Maryland up by 16 with 10:41 left. A 3-pointer by Taylor made it 63-54, but a layup by Milbourne and two straight baskets by Vasquez enabled the Terrapins to coast to the finish.

Maryland limited the Owls to 30 percent shooting and forced 11 turnovers in going up 39-27 at halftime.

There were four ties and five lead changes in the early going before Dino Gregory hit a jumper to spark an 11-0 run that put the Terrapins ahead to stay. A 3-pointer by Eric Hayes made it 18-13, and Vasquez scored twice in the lane before Milbourne capped the surge with a dunk. **DAVID GINSBURG (AP)**

Down for the Count



**THE REFEREE COUNTS OUT** Mohamed Belkacem of Switzerland, after he was hit by defending champion Magomed Aripagadjiev of Belarus during the European Light Heavyweight Championship Saturday in Bern, Switzerland.

TV Lineup

**CAPITALS (7 P.M., CSN)** The Capitals, owners of the NHL's best record, face off with the Carolina Hurricanes.

**WIZARDS (8 P.M., CSN+)** After laying an egg in Minnesota, the Wizards visit the Memphis Grizzlies.

**PRO FOOTBALL (8:30 P.M., ESPN)** Brett Favre and the Vikings try to right their ship against the Chicago Bears.

**COLLEGE FOOTBALL (5 P.M., ESPN2)** Georgia battles Texas A&M in the Independence Bowl.

**COLLEGE HOOPS (8:30 P.M., ESPN2)** North Carolina steps out of conference to play Rutgers.

**NHL (7 P.M., VERSUS)** Uncharacteristically in third place, the Detroit Red Wings take on the Columbus Blue Jackets.

**SOCCER (2:30 P.M., ESPN2)** Manchester City and Wolverhampton square off in Premier League action.

# lookout

**Kate Has an Alibi**  
Jon Gosselin's NYC  
apartment trashed  
with butcher knife **27**

## Booze Clues

### Taste of a Trend

**It's always disappointing** when a hot new restaurant opens and you're too broke to try it. Rest assured, soon enough it'll open a happy hour and then you'll be noshing weird little bites of their most popular stuff for

next to nothing.

Witness: Masa 14 (1825 14th St. NW), joint of the moment, five minutes ago. Their happy hour lasts from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. every weekday and features tons of \$4 small



By Fiona Zublin

plates. I admit to a weakness for their spicy tuna roll and their ginger-scallion bacon. The other draw here is \$4 cocktails — it's Latin-Asian food, so their margarita is a strong choice, but we also like the strawberry lemonade for being less innocuous than the name suggests. Because there's nothing in the name about vodka.

There are also beer and wine specials — again \$4 — but stick to cocktails to get more buzz for your buck. Just don't get so intoxicated that you start ordering from Masa's tequila menu. That'll empty your wallet faster than an 8-year-old Oaxacan pickpocket.

### Doubles for Couples

If you're boring enough to be part of a couple this New Year's Eve, head to H Street Country Club (1335 H St. NE) for their "Last Supper of '09." \$50 gets you dinner for two, two glasses of champagne and a pair of mini-golf passes. The food, in case you haven't heard, is kind of upscale Tex-Mex, but the real draw here is the mini-golf. We suggest making reservations for any time after 6 p.m.



### Film

▲ **Up:** Minus the embarrassingly wet eyes, growing old never seemed so exciting.

**District 9:** A layered sci-fi masterwork that addresses the complexities of South Africa's apartheid legacy as well as its post-apartheid confusion and violence toward "foreigners."

**Up in the Air:** This recession-era comedy about the crushing sadness of the human condition stars George Clooney at his most appealing and most humane.

**The Hangover:** The best stoner movie since "Dazed and Confused."

**Where The Wild Things Are:** Made us feel like children again, complete with little kid confusion and angst.

## We Be the Judge

Who did you think puts out Express? Robots? Prison labor? No, real people produce your favorite free daily, and they consume pop culture just like you. Here are their picks for the best of '09; see [Expressnightout.com](http://Expressnightout.com) for more.



### Television

▲ **True Blood:** If all knock-off vampire shows tried to emulate this one's sly wit and bloody antics, perhaps we'd have better knock-off vampire shows.

**Glee:** How could a premise so "High School Musical"-sounding be so deviously smart and deliciously deviant?

**Hoarders:** Where "Clean House" smooths out the sadness with a sassy host and home makeover, this show rarely has a resolution, happy or otherwise. Pure darkness.

**Jersey Shore:** This show has made the word "situation" completely awesome and totally annoying at the same time.

**Thursday nights on NBC:** Yes, "The Office" is still funny, and there's no end of praise for the evening's other must-see TV comedies: "Parks & Recreation," "Community" and "30 Rock." Two hours of LOL.



### Music

▲ **Strike Anywhere, "Iron Front":** One of the most stirring melodic-hardcore-punk CDs in years. Power to the people, down with corporate oppression, don't trust the government (even a Democratic one).

**Phoenix, "Wolfgang Amadeus Phoenix":** Jangly guitars and absurdly nonsensical lyrics haven't sounded this good in a long time.

**The-Dream, "Love Vs. Money":** The sunny bravado of the singles is nice, but it's the album's journey into self-doubt that really shines.

**P.O.S., "Never Better":** Hip-hop as punk-rock expression. The CD title says it all.

**They Might Be Giants, "Science":** TMBG continue its brilliant string of ultra-smart theme albums geared toward kids but sophisticated enough lyrically and musically to entertain adults.

Weekend Box Office	
Avatar	\$75.4 M
Sherlock Holmes	\$65.4 M
Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel	\$50.2 M
It's Complicated	\$22.1 M
Up in the Air	\$11.8 M
The Blind Side	\$11.7 M
The Princess and the Frog	\$8.7 M
Nine	\$5.5 M
Did You Hear About the Morgans?	\$5 M
Invictus	\$4.4 M

# America's New Sex Therapist

Robin Thicke chats about pleasing the ladies and playing an animated bird

## Music

Robin Thicke's new CD is called "Sex Therapy," but the singer says guys have to think beyond the bedroom if they want to keep a woman happy.

Thicke's prescription for a satisfied woman includes the occasional foot rub, a dinner date, shopping sprees and listening sessions. But sex does play a part as well — hence the title of the album.

"Some women can buy their own shoes, some women don't want to go to lunch, some women like to cook, but they all need sex therapy," he says. "It's the one thing every woman's going to need sooner or later. Except a nun. So this album is not for nuns."

The songwriter recently talked about his loving wife (actress Paula Patton), his upcoming film and his fourth studio release.

**If you were a sex therapist and you had to give advice to a couple with intimacy issues, what would you say to them?**



Thicke can sing and play the piano at the same time. But can he walk and chew gum?

First thing, they probably just need to slow down and look at each other again and get in a new environment. Maybe go to a different restaurant, go anywhere else, have her try on some new lingerie, buy her some new lingerie, make her feel sexy. Maybe she needs to do something to make him feel sexy. But you can't ever give up on it because it's so easy to just start sitting there and the hours turn into days and the days turn into weeks and the next thing you know you ain't doing nothing with each other.

**"[Sex] is one thing every woman's going to need sooner or later. Except a nun."**

**How did your family respond to the new music?**

My older brother, he just said, "I can't stop listening to it." He said, "This album is like great sex, I just want more and more and more of it." And I was like, "Wow, that's a

pretty good advertisement." But then my mom [actress Gloria Loring] hears it and [is like], "Oh, it's a little aggressive for mommies."

**I hear will you be acting soon — tell me about that.**

I wouldn't want to bring down other actors by saying what I'm trying to do is acting. What they do is acting, I'm just trying. But I got a role in this animated film ["Rio"] with Anne Hathaway and a few other very talented people, where I play a bird, a singing bird.

**What advice did your wife give you?**

My wife's like, "You have to get into the part, you have to listen to salsa music, you have to do this, and look at birds on the Internet and the Brazilian rain forest."

**How does it feel to know you will be a father?**

It's extremely exciting. All day long when I get a little worried or scared or anxious or tired, I just say, "Thank you God for, as of right now, a healthy child and a healthy wife and a happy home." In this world that should be enough to make a man happy for a day, you know what I mean?

MESFIN FEKADU (AP)

## CD Review



### Stronger With Each Tear

Mary J. Blige

Mary J. Blige's style — both musical and personal — has gradually evolved over her nearly 20-year career. The Grammy winner's ninth studio album, "Stronger with Each Tear" (Geffen), is the latest evidence of that evolution.

The disc's title track is an empowerment anthem, representative of recent chart-toppers that have given Blige mainstream appeal. "In each tear there's a lesson/ makes you wiser than before/ makes you stronger than you know," she belts over a steady, marching beat. Big buzz singer-rapper Drake joins the 38-year-old songstress on the uptempo single "The One," and T.I. lends his Southern drawl to the bouncy "Good Love." Both songs are good, but "In the Morning" is great because the track features Blige tapping into her signature soulful sound.

The same goes for the bluesy "I Can See in Color." The gut-wrenching selection comes from the movie "Precious," and is just one more example of Blige's consistent ability to exude power even when she's expressing pain. MELANIE SIMS (AP)

## Top Stops

TOP STOPS COMPILED BY FIONA ZUBLIN. FOR MORE UPCOMING EVENTS, FOLLOW THE TOP STOPS BLOG AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM/TOPSTOPS



### 1 Prints Charming

This is "last chance week" for a lot of area art exhibits — the new year will soon sweep in with all sorts of new and exciting gallery openings, but for now you should try to see everything you haven't gotten around to yet. Make sure you don't miss "Matisse as Printmaker" in Baltimore. It'll introduce you to a new side of the artist's work. **F.Z. Baltimore Museum of Art, 10 Art Museum Drive, Baltimore; through Jan. 3, free; 443-573-1700, Artbma.org.**

### 2 Learning Ujima

You thought the winter holidays were over and you were off the hook. But no, Kwanzaa continues. Try out a Kwanzaa workshop at the Anacostia Community Museum. You'll do a craft project that teaches responsibility, one of the principles of Kwanzaa. Also, it teaches you how to crochet. **F.Z. Anacostia Community Museum, 1901 Fort Place SE; Mon., Dec. 28, 10:30 a.m., free; 202-633-4844, Anacostia.si.edu. (Anacostia)**

### 3 Green Revolution

We're not sure how Irish popcorn differs from American popcorn, but it's touted as a major selling point of Solas Nua's Irish film series. Doesn't matter: You won't need snacks to lure you to tonight's showing of "The Wind That Shakes the Barley," a tale of two brothers fighting in the Irish Civil War that won a little prize called the Palme d'Or. **F.Z. Flashpoint, 916 G St. NW; Mon., Dec. 28, 7 p.m., free; 202-315-1317, Solasnua.org. (Gallery Place)**



# TV tonight **lookout**

## Best Bets

NBC  
8:00

**Community** Jeff (Joel McHale) signs up for a class thinking it will be an easy A, but the professor (John Michael Higgins) has other ideas. Britta (Gillian Jacobs), meanwhile, helps Abed (Danny Pudi) with his long-held dream of studying film.

CBS  
8:30

### Accidentally on Purpose

Trying to keep their complicated relationship in perspective, Billie and Zack (Jenna Elfman, Jon Foster) agree to see other people, but — no real surprise here — Billie finds her pregnancy makes it difficult for her to make any love connections.



CW  
9:00

**Gossip Girl** The personal stakes are high as Blair and Chuck (Leighton Meester, Ed Westwick) both set their sights on an item up for bid at Sotheby's. Serena (Blake Lively) thinks Carter (Sebastian Stan) is up to his old habits.

CBS  
10:00



### CSI: Miami

A home invasion scenario becomes even more volatile when Horatio Caine's (David Caruso) team finds out its being targeted by (cue ominous balalaika music) the Russian mob. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)



LIANE BRANDON © NANCY PORTER PRODUCTIONS, INC.

## Ahead Of Her Time

AMERICAN MASTERS

PBS  
9:00

"Louisa May Alcott: The Woman Behind Little Women" uses the personal correspondence and historical accounts of conversations to debunk the view of the author as a moralizing spinster. It paints a progressive figure, raised amongst iconoclasts such as Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson, who held modern ideas about women, work and career.

KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

## Marathon



### Aging Well

Bea Arthur was just one of the many cherished artists we lost in 2009, but her unforgettable comedy style keeps making us laugh in reruns. In "Love Under the Big Top" (9 a.m.), which launches the Hallmark Channel's "Golden Girls" marathon, Arthur is paired with another comedy legend, Dick Van Dyke. He plays the Dorothy's beau, who gives up a lucrative legal practice to become a circus clown. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

# B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS

**Nice couples. Nice stories.**  
Every Monday in Express.



**express**

A publication of The Washington Post

If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but no formal engagement photos, please), plus your names and ceremony date to [weddings@readexpress.com](mailto:weddings@readexpress.com). Please contact us at least one month before your ceremony. We'll get back to you with questions.

XX232C2x5.25

## Are you an overweight woman?

### What:

To study the effects of a medication that might make people feel less hungry.

### Who:

- Healthy overweight women
- Age 18-70
- Non-smokers without asthma or diabetes

### Where:

NIH Clinical Center in Bethesda, MD.

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[www.clinicaltrials.gov](http://www.clinicaltrials.gov)  
keyword BETAHISTINE  
Refer to study # 07-CH-0126



Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health  
NIH Clinical Center

lookout online

Poll Center

Today's Question

WOULD YOU SUBMIT TO AN AIRPORT SCAN THAT LOOKS UNDER CLOTHES?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Thursday's Results

DID YOU USE UP ALL YOUR ALLOTTED VACATION TIME THIS YEAR?



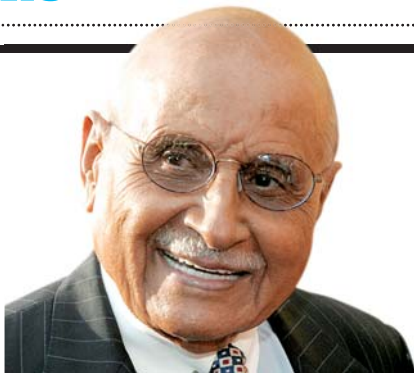
**"My company is short-staffed** and won't hire because of the downward trend in the economy and impending costly policies coming from the administration. So everybody has to work overtime. If I take vacation I actually lose money because I don't get the OT."

COMMENTER MZ

**"No, but I** get to carry remnants over to the new year, so it's not an issue for me."

COMMENTER WAS BUF., NOW WAS.

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT [WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM](http://WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM)



**"Maybe it's generational or perhaps just lack of knowledge, but this headline: 'Percy Sutton, attorney for Malcolm X, dies at 89' really misses the point about Sutton's many accomplishments."**

— [WORDSATWORK.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://WORDSATWORK.BLOGSPOT.COM) ADDED, "HE WAS A SERIOUS PLAYER IN NEW YORK'S POLITICAL AND MEDIA WORLDS. HE WAS A PIONEER OF BLACK INFLUENCE AND LED AN AMAZING LIFE."

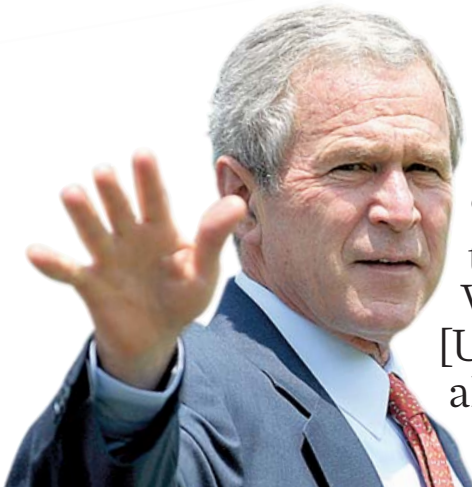
**"JUST WHEN WE THOUGHT** we'd rid ourselves of the daily Jon Gosselin dilemma, up springs another happenstance that we feel compelled to share with our readers. We apologize to those who have already moved on and sworn off his wacky antics."

— [BITTENANDBOUND.COM](http://BITTENANDBOUND.COM) REACTS TO NEWS THAT THE REALITY TV STAR'S NEW YORK APARTMENT WAS BURGLARIZED AND RANSACKED OVER THE WEEKEND.



**"Before there was ESPN, there was George Michael. [He] set a production and presentation standard that makes modern-day sports coverage seem old school."**

— [SOMEVELVETBLOG.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://SOMEVELVETBLOG.BLOGSPOT.COM) PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE FORMER WRC-4 BROADCASTER, WHO DIED FRIDAY AT 70.



**"Bush protected the American homeland after 9/11. Is [President] Obama taking it seriously enough? Would Bush have kept [Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab] off that plane?"**

— [ALTHOUSE.BLOGSPOT.COM](http://ALTHOUSE.BLOGSPOT.COM) HAS A FEW QUESTIONS AFTER THE CHRISTMAS DAY BOMBER INCIDENT.

Don't be trashy.

Littering is such a waste.

And it makes you seem trashy.

Help keep Metro clean.

Recycle your newspaper.

A friendly reminder from Express.

# puzzles lookout

## Horoscope

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Those who are more interested in you than others will require a little more attention from you, but you may not trust the reasons.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You may be unusually suspicious of someone who has done nothing to offend you—at least nothing that you've yet been able to detect.

**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20) Take risks, if you are so inclined, but don't pretend that you have anyone to blame if and when things go wrong. Make sure to take some precautions.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19) Forward motion is something you must not take for granted. Any kind of serious slowdown can prove hazardous.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20) Wants and needs are both likely to require attention. You will be most satisfied when what you want IS what you need.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20) You'll remember a piece of advice you received some time ago but didn't put to good use. It's not too late—use it now.

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22) Young or old, you'll feel as though you're ready for something that might be just one or two steps beyond your abilities, but only for now.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22) Be flexible, willing to adjust your tactics and your timing to suit changing circumstances. A friend asks a probing question.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You can surely win, but it's not winning, necessarily, that will win you the respect of others. It's how you play that counts.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may feel as though no one understands the plight you are currently in, but in reality, there are many who could lend a hand.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You may be misinterpreting someone else's motives at this time. Take a step back, and let things play out before you pass final judgment.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Trying to do something someone else's way isn't for you—now or ever. Do what you can to assert your individuality.

## Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 145-155, BEST SCORE 212

A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	V <sub>4</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>


 RACK 1

A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	C <sub>3</sub>

3rd Letter Double


 RACK 2

A <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>


 RACK 3

A <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>

Triple Word Score


 RACK 4

### Yesterday's Solution

B <sub>3</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	L <sub>1</sub>	K <sub>5</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	
J <sub>8</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	W <sub>4</sub>	B <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>
D <sub>2</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	R <sub>1</sub>	E <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	A <sub>1</sub>	Y <sub>4</sub>
E <sub>1</sub>	N <sub>1</sub>	D <sub>2</sub>	M <sub>3</sub>	O <sub>1</sub>	S <sub>1</sub>	T <sub>1</sub>

 PAR SCORE 145-155  
 RACK 1 = 12  
 RACK 2 = 107  
 RACK 3 = 61  
 RACK 4 = 61  
 TOTAL 241

### FOUR RACK TOTAL

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

## Sudoku

EASY

		4		7		3	
2	9		8	3			
6		8					7
			4			5	
1		5	7		6	3	4
		3			9		
7						2	9
			9	4		7	6
	5		2			4	

### Yesterday's Solution

3	2	9	5	1	4	8	6	7
6	7	4	3	9	8	5	2	1
5	1	8	6	2	7	4	3	9
9	6	2	7	4	1	3	5	8
8	4	1	9	3	5	6	7	2
7	3	5	8	6	2	1	9	4
4	9	7	1	5	6	2	8	3
1	5	3	2	8	9	7	4	6
2	8	6	4	7	3	9	1	5

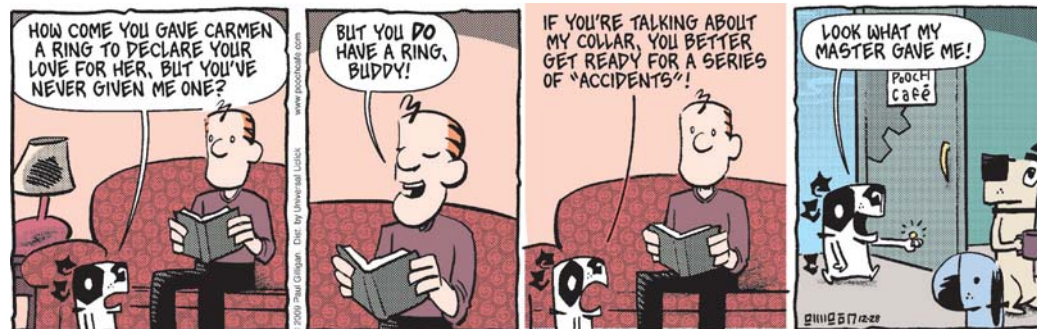
**Need more Sudolku?**  
Find another puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

## Comics

FIND MORE COMICS AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

### POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN



### PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



## Forecast

**37 | 26**

**Today:** Partly sunny, breezy and colder today. Partly cloudy tonight.

**32 | 22**

**Tomorrow:** Partly sunny and breezy tomorrow. Mainly clear tomorrow night.

### Looking Ahead

WED	THU	FRI
39   28	36   31	41   32

### Sun and Moon

Sunrise today: 7:26 a.m.  
 Sunset today: 4:54 p.m.  
 Moonrise today: 1:48 p.m.  
 Moonset today: 4:04 a.m.

### Almanac

Normal high: 44  
 Record high: 72  
 Normal low: 29  
 Record low: 2

FORECAST BY ACCUWEATHER.COM ©2009

# Attention High School Students

## APPLY NOW FOR THE 2010 URBAN JOURNALISM WORKSHOP

As part of The Washington Post Young Journalists Development Program, we have partnered with the Washington Association of Black Journalists to give high school students in the Greater D.C. area an inside look at careers in journalism. Professional journalists from The Washington Post, the Associated Press, National Public Radio and other media companies serve as mentors. Over the course of the workshop that meets for eight consecutive Saturdays, our experts train students in the basics of real-life journalism through one of three media—newspaper, radio and TV. Students then produce a newspaper, and a television and radio news program. There is also an online component to each medium. Scholarships are awarded to seniors who have excelled during the workshop, showing strong research, reporting and writing ability. (There is no fee to apply or attend.)

### When:

February 27 - April 24  
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Students will meet at various sites in Washington, D.C.

### Eligibility:

High school students attending schools in the Washington, D.C. Metropolitan area. All interested students are encouraged to apply.

### Requirements:

An interest in a journalism career and a command of the English language. Students must attend all eight Saturday sessions. Interested students must submit a written application, including writing assignments, parental/guardian approval and two recommendations from high school teachers and/or newspaper advisers.

### Scholarships:

One scholarship of up to \$2,500 for a print student.  
One scholarship of up to \$1,000 each for a radio and TV student.  
Scholarships will be based on an essay, stories produced in the workshop, class attendance and participation in all eight sessions.

### Deadline:

Completed applications should be addressed to:  
The Washington Association of Black Journalists  
P.O. Box 77130  
Washington, D.C. 20013

*Applications must be postmarked by Saturday, January 16, 2010.*

*Students who are accepted will be notified the week of February 1, 2010.*

### To Apply:

Download applications from [www.ujwonline.org](http://www.ujwonline.org). You may also contact your high school journalism adviser.

### For more information:

Lorrie Grant, UJW Coordinator:  
703-220-6363  
[lorriegrant@yahoo.com](mailto:lorriegrant@yahoo.com)  
Mario Iván Oña, Washington Post/  
YJDP Director  
240-515-6803  
[onam@washpost.com](mailto:onam@washpost.com)

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XPP20 2X10.5

# lookout puzzles

## Crossword

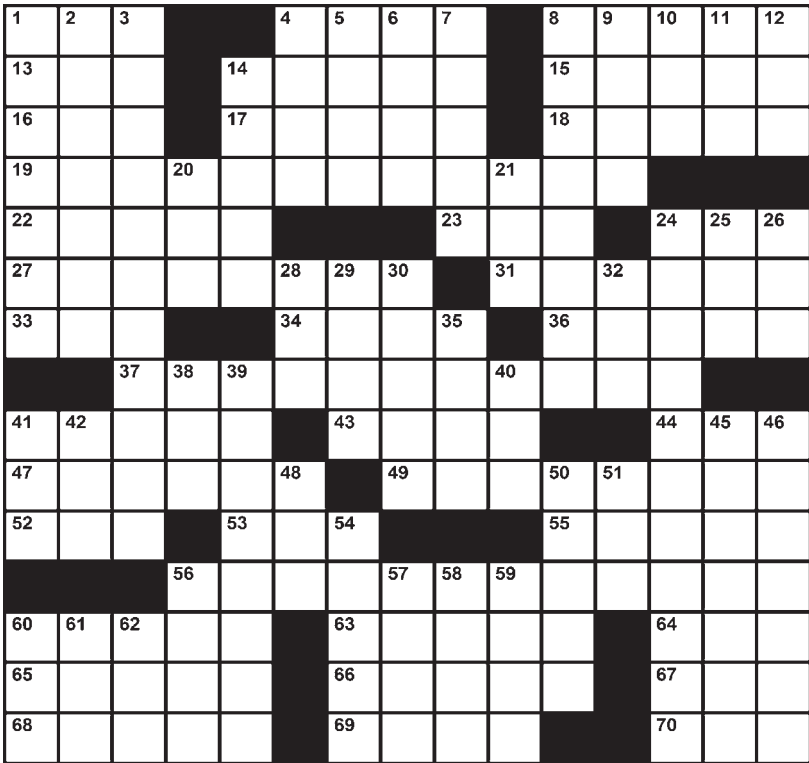
## MUSICALLY GIFTED

### ACROSS

- 1 Salary limit
- 4 Warmongering bugs
- 8 Teetotaler's vehicle?
- 13 "Monopoly" board abbr.
- 14 Slow gastropod
- 15 Economize on the wedding
- 16 Was in theaters
- 17 Merge
- 18 Relaxed in the fitting room?
- 19 In perfect health
- 22 Hebrew's first letter
- 23 Win at musical chairs
- 24 Pacifying gesture
- 27 Target of a pass
- 31 Advertising medium
- 33 Former name of Tokyo
- 34 Van Gogh floral subject
- 36 "Dear" book
- 37 Not give a definite answer
- 41 Holmes of "Batman Begins"
- 43 Bottom of a clog
- 44 Psychic skill
- 47 Pass, timewise
- 49 Title for Jesus (with "the")
- 52 Theater lighting-effects device
- 53 Faux \_\_\_\_ (social misstep)
- 55 Farmer's market container
- 56 Cornucopia
- 60 Majorette's twirler
- 63 Ancient marketplace
- 64 Outspoken champ
- 65 Guadalajara goodbye
- 66 Oil and vinegar holder
- 67 D.D.E. was one
- 68 Distinguishing flavor
- 69 Large brown seaweed
- 70 Ten-millionth of a joule

### DOWN

- 1 Certain transportation cost
- 2 Benefited



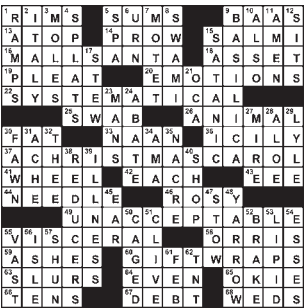
EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

- 3 Like Oral Robert's ministry
- 4 "\_\_\_\_ and the King of Siam"
- 5 Artless one
- 6 Furry tree-dweller of the Amazon
- 7 Slow summer sellers
- 8 Affluent
- 9 Ingredient in lotions
- 10 Sludgy stuff
- 11 Covert \_\_\_\_ (military assignments)
- 12 Birth name signifier
- 14 Fish eaten at bars
- 20 Arm-over-arm swinger
- 21 Dance maneuver
- 24 Run the show
- 25 "Jingle Bells" preposition

- 26 Get leverage, in a way
- 28 "QB \_\_\_\_" (Uris novel)
- 29 Diving eagles
- 30 Lack of laxness
- 32 Cause for penitence
- 35 Buy-one-get-one event
- 38 Bellboy's bonus
- 39 Answer
- 40 Had no catching up to do
- 41 Beer bash buy
- 42 Yard filler
- 45 Frontier figure
- 46 Hunting, as for food
- 48 Acoustic organ
- 50 Ostentatious display
- 51 Before, in verse
- 54 Nibble between meals
- 56 Amusing antic
- 57 Storybook monster

- 58 Fair's opposite
- 59 Attend a boarding school
- 60 Baseball hitter?
- 61 Oral health org.
- 62 "\_\_\_\_ a pity"

### Yesterday's Solution



## Today in History

**1832** John C. Calhoun becomes the first U.S. vice president to resign, stepping down over differences with President Andrew Jackson.

**1869** William E. Semple of Mount Vernon, Ohio, patents chewing gum.

**1981** Elizabeth Jordan Carr, the first American test-tube baby, is born in Norfolk, Virginia.

**express**



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people **lookout**

## REACTIONS

**TSA Forbids Speaking Words Before Take-Off**

Ivana Trump was escorted off a plane in Florida Saturday after she became belligerent when children were running and screaming in the aisles. Authorities say the first ex-wife of billionaire Donald Trump cursed at the children, and when flight attendants on the New York-bound plane tried to calm her, she became even more aggravated. (AP)



## FUNERALS

**Murphy Laid to Rest in L.A.**

Brittany Murphy's family laid her to rest at a private Christmas Eve funeral in Los Angeles. The afternoon service stretched into the evening as a Christian minister and a rabbi presided and guests sang "Amazing Grace" at the grave site at Forest Lawn Memorial Park. "A bright light that lit the world is forever dimmed, but will live on in the hearts of those that Brittany touched," her family said in a statement. (AP)



## MAKE-UNDERS

**Who the Heck Is That? Oh, It's Gene Simmons**

A couple who said they were assaulted by Gene Simmons sued the KISS bassist for unspecified damages Thursday. Nathan Marlowe and wife Cynthia Manzo said Simmons attacked them, threatened them and took their video camera at an upscale Los Angeles mall on Dec. 18 after they started filming the rocker. The couple are seeking damages of more than \$25,000 for civil claims of assault, battery and inflection of emotional distress. (AP)



**"You must want it with an exuberance that erupts through the skin and joins the energy that created the world."**

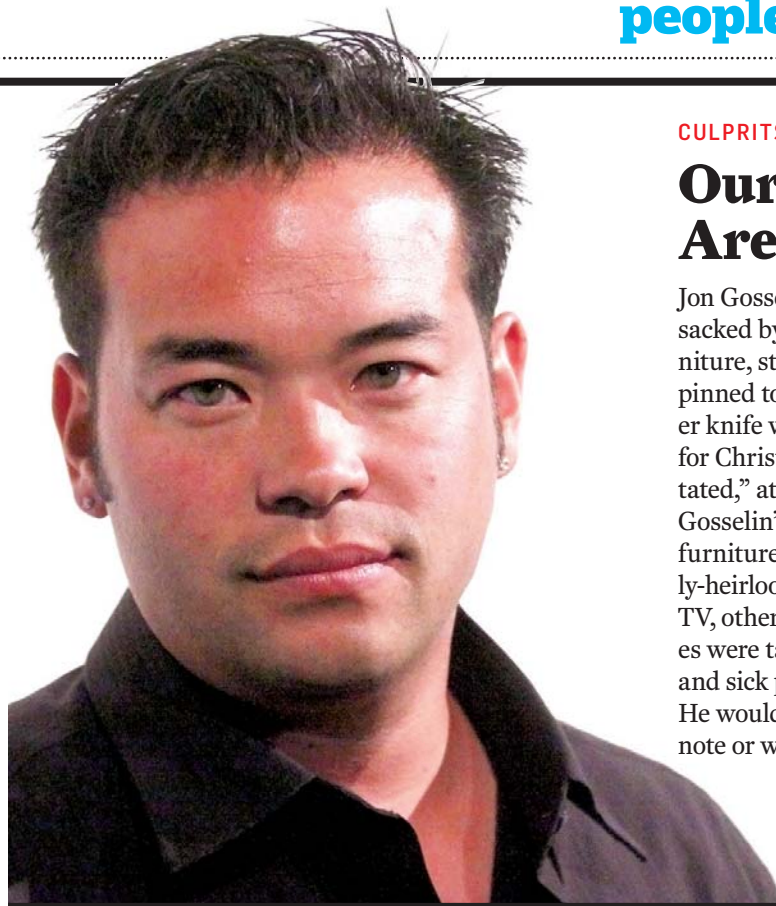


— PAULA ABDUL  
TWITTERED THIS NUGGET OF WISDOM LAST WEEK, PREFACED BY "YOU CAN HAVE ANYTHING THAT YOU WANT IF YOU WANT IT DESPERATELY ENOUGH."

## CULPRITS

**Our Alibis Are Ironclad**

Jon Gosselin's apartment was ransacked by someone who slashed furniture, stole his TV and left a note pinned to his dresser with a butcher knife while he visited his children for Christmas. Gosselin was "devastated," attorney Mark Jay Heller said. Gosselin's clothes, bed and other furniture were cut up, and a family-heirloom vase was shattered. His TV, other electronics and his dishes were taken by a "very troubled and sick perpetrator," Heller said. He wouldn't disclose who signed the note or what it said. (AP)



## ARRESTS

**'Two and a Half Men' Marathon Now Ruined**

Aspen, Colo., authorities say Charlie Sheen is accused of using a weapon in an alleged case of domestic violence. Sheen spent part of Christmas Day in jail after being arrested. Police spokeswoman Stephanie Dasaro did not provide details on what kind of weapon Sheen is accused of using. Sheen also was arrested on investigation of second-degree assault, a felony, and criminal mischief, a misdemeanor. (AP)



Sheen hasn't been charged and was released after posting an \$8,500 bond.

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